

From: Claude Holland
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 6:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

3824 Williamsburg Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the federal government in the antitrust case.

I believe it is in the public interest to end the case and accept the settlement that is on the table. The case has been pending for three years, and if you go back to Court now it might take at least that much time to reach an outcome. The settlement agreement negotiated by your Department with Microsoft, with the help of a court-appointed mediator, offers the opportunity to end the case now and help the economy.

Microsoft has made a number of concessions, but its primary concession, once implemented, will offer

immediate opportunities for growth in the software industry. Under the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to allow competition within its Windows operating systems from non-Microsoft software programs upon finalization of the settlement. This will provide non-Microsoft software designers and manufacturers the chance to step up and compete within a very short period.

I hope you see the wisdom of accepting this agreement rather than continuing in Court. Thank you for allowing me the chance to offer my point of view.

Sincerely,

Claude Holland

cc: Representative Spencer Bachus